

STL9961

REMARKS

The Applicant has carefully read and reviewed the Office Action mailed May 14, 2003. Claims 1-24 were examined in the office action. Claims 11, 14, 15, 18, and 21 have been amended in this response. Claims 12, 13, and 22-24 have been canceled in this response. Claims 25 and 26 have been added. Claims 1-11, 14-21, 25 and 26, as amended, are pending in the application.

Restriction Requirement

In the office action, the Examiner asserted that claims 1-24 are subject to restriction or election requirement, describing Group I (claims 1-10 and 18-20) and Group II (claims 11-17 and 21-24). Also described were species I(a) (claims 1-10), species I(b) (claims 18-20), species II(a) (claims 11-17), and species II(b) (claims 21-24). The Applicant respectfully traverses and requests reconsideration of the restriction requirement. Nonetheless, the Applicant provisionally elects Group I, species I(a) (claims 1-10).

Groups I and II

The Applicant submits that Group I and Group II, as amended, do not claim distinct inventions, as asserted in the Office Action. Applicant submits that the amendments to the claims obviate the need for the restriction requirement. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the restriction requirement between Groups I and II be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that the restriction requirement should be withdrawn. Nonetheless, the Applicant provisionally elects claims 1-10 (Group 1(a)). This amendment and response is believed to be responsive to all points in the Office Action.

STL9961

Applicant respectfully asserts that the present claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which is regarded as the invention.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and favorable action with respect to the present application is requested.

Date: 6-16-2003


Kirk A. Cesari, Reg. No. 47,479
Seagate Technology LLC
1280 Disc Drive
Shakopee, MN 55379-1863
Telephone: 952-402-3534
Fax: 952-402-2657

FAX RECEIVED

JUN 16 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Page 9 of 9